USING INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

Kathy Pettit, The Urban Institute

Baltimore City Data Day   July 23, 2010

National Trends in Using Local Indicators

- More neighborhood level data available than ever before
  - Online systems like EveryBlock, Zillow
  - New federal initiative promoting open data

- Increased role for local administrative data
  - American Community Survey tract data will be 5-year averages (12/2010 release)

- Advances in usability and functionality of technology

- New focus in federal programs on place-based initiatives
  - Promise Neighborhoods
  - Choice Neighborhoods
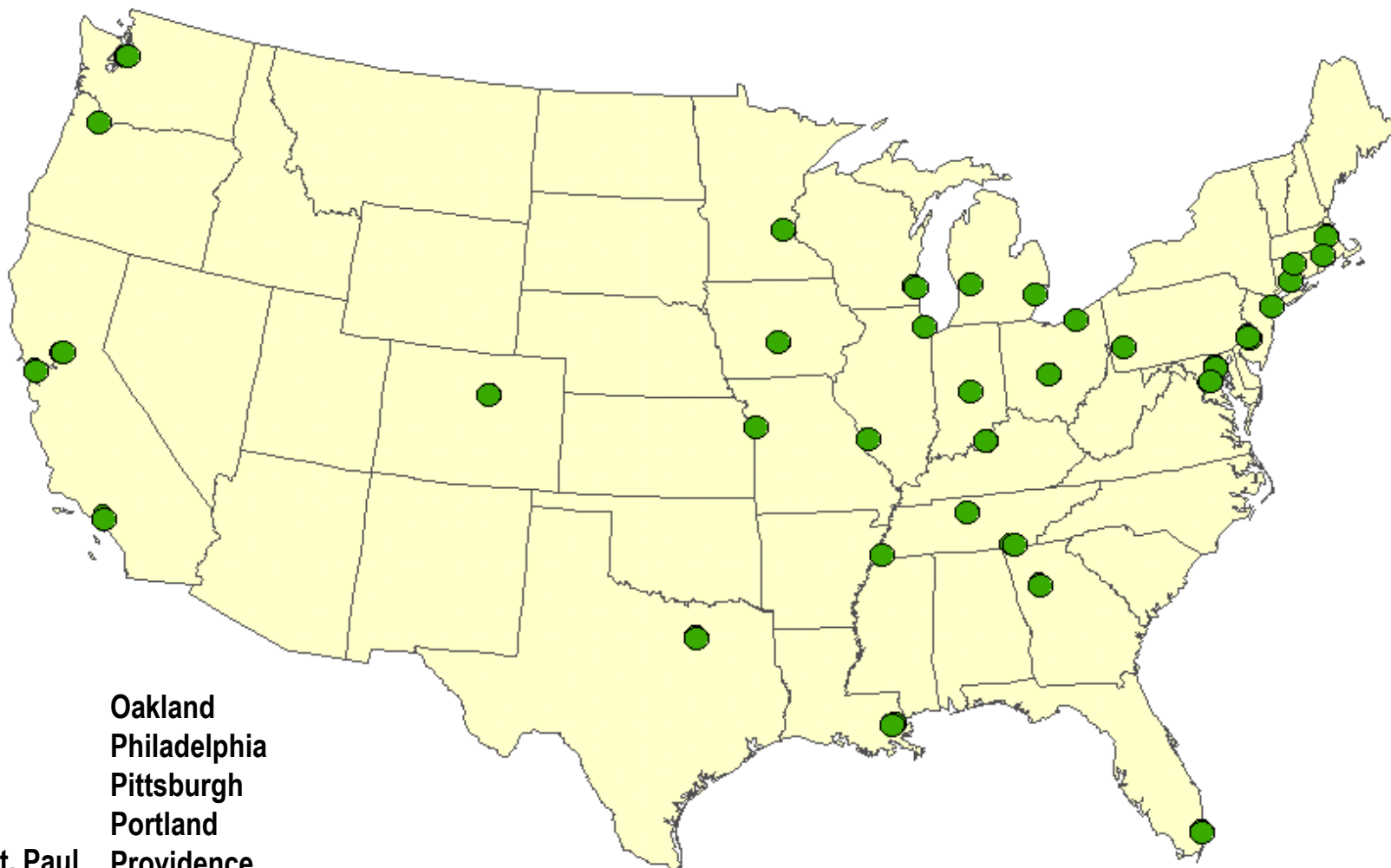 - Sustainable Communities

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National Trends in Using Local Indicators

- But, often difficult to find up-to-date data at the desired geography for community action

- And more than data is needed
  - Knowledge and respect of the community
  - Committed institutions
  - Strong partnerships among organizations
  - Effective communication & advocacy

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National Neighborhood Indicators Partners

Atlanta
Baltimore
Boston
Camden
Chattanooga
Chicago
Cleveland
Columbus
Dallas
Denver
Des Moines
Detroit
Grand Rapids
Hartford
Indianapolis
Kansas City
Louisville
Los Angeles   Oakland
Memphis   Philadelphia
Miami   Pittsburgh
Milwaukee   Portland
Minneapolis-St. Paul Providence
Nashville   Sacramento
New Haven   Saint Louis
New Orleans   Seattle
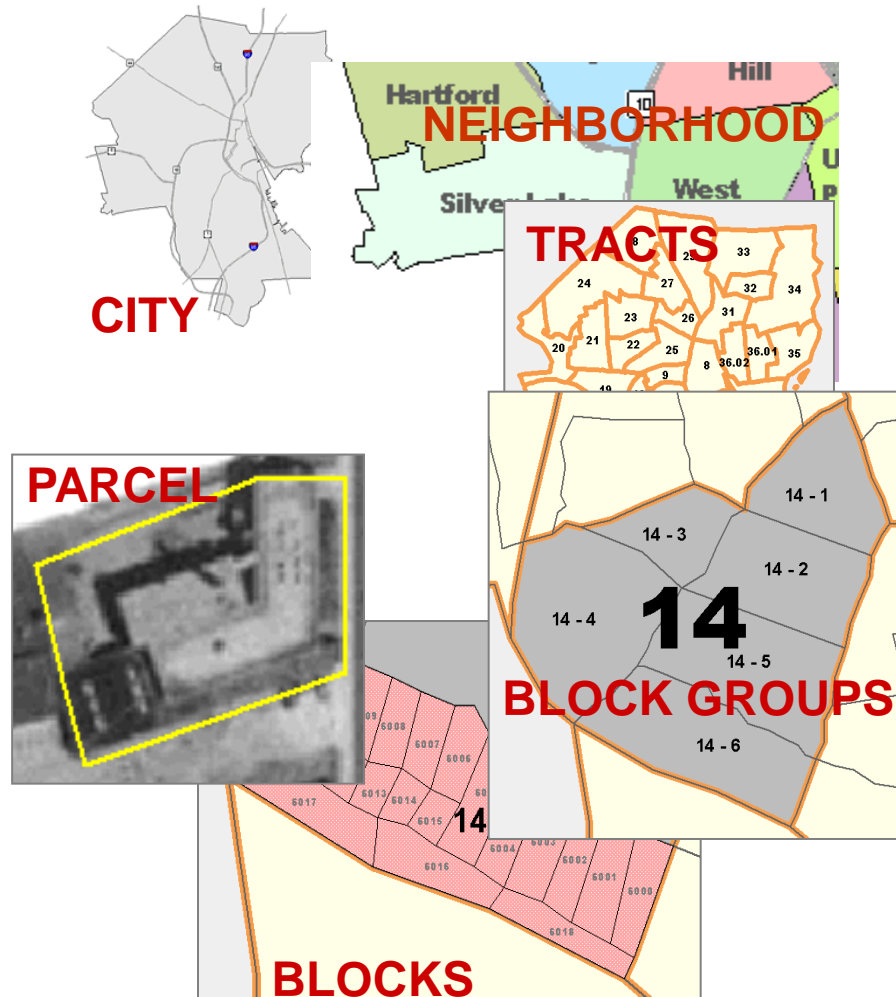New York City   Washington, DC

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP)

- Collaborative effort since 1995

  - Urban Institute and local partners in 34 U.S. cities

- Success required three innovations

  1. Data and technology
  2. Institutions
  3. Using information for change

Data and Technology
Linking people information with place information

CITY

NEIGHBORHOOD

TRACTS

PARCEL

BLOCK GROUPS

14

BLOCKS

- **Problems are not evenly distributed across cities.**

- **Priority issues vary across neighborhoods.**

- **People can relate to data analysis at the neighborhood level.**

New Types of Institutions

- All but one outside of government

    – Stand-alone nonprofit, university centers, alliance

- All partner with resident groups, nonprofits, government, and other stakeholders

- Long-term and multifaceted interests

- Positioned to maintain trust of data providers and users

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Shared Mission: *Information for Change*

- Democratizing Information
  - Facilitate the direct use of data by stakeholders

- Work for many clients
  - Helping Boys and Girls Club choose a new site
  - Working in a cross-sector collaboration to reduce infant deaths

- A central focus on strengthening, empowering low-income neighborhoods

- Information as a bridge for collaboration among public agencies, nonprofits, businesses
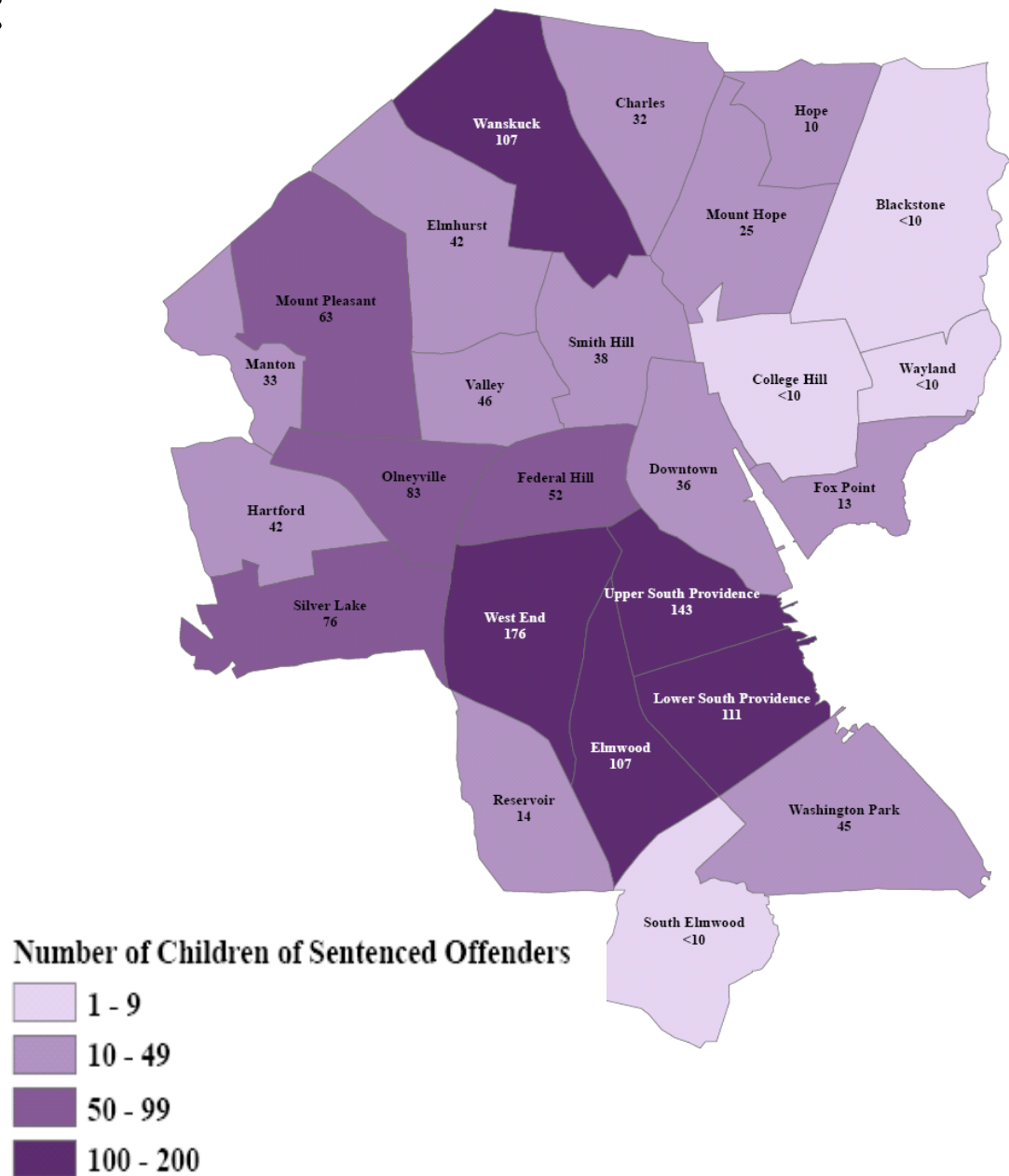
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Joint Work Program of the NNIP Partnership

- Advance the state of practice

  1. Informing local policy initiatives (cross-site projects)

  2. Developing tools and guides

- Build/strengthen local capacity

  3. Developing capacity in new communities

  4. Services to an expanding network

- Influence national context/partnering
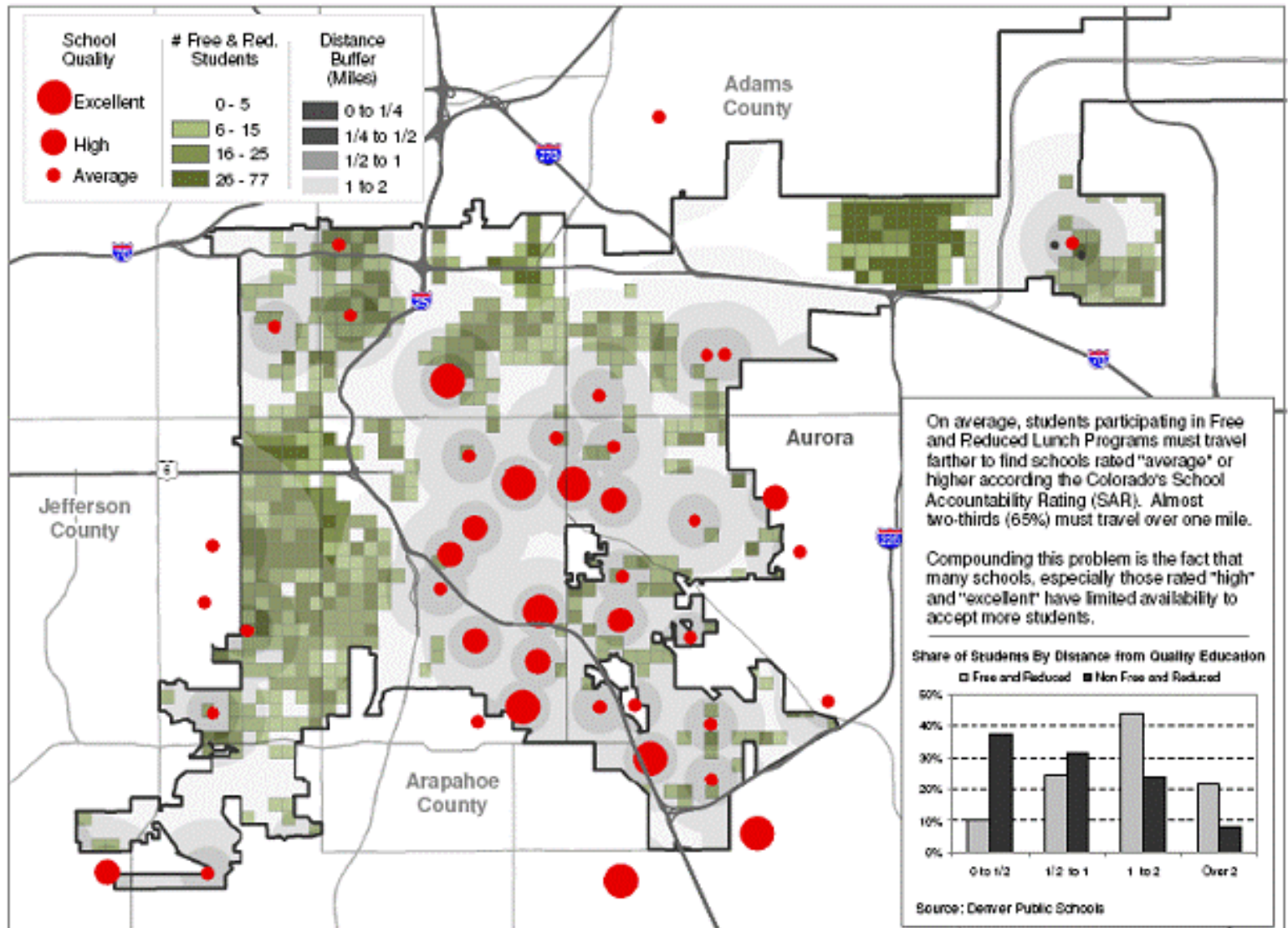
  5. Leadership in building the field

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NNIP Cross-Site: Prisoner Reentry (Providence)

*Individuals convicted of selling drugs in Rhode Island were **permanently** barred from receiving food stamps, making their transition more difficult and denying help to their children*

Charles 32
Hope 10
Wanskuck 107
Blackstone <10
Elmhurst 42
Mount Hope 25
Mount Pleasant 63
Smith Hill 38
Manton 33
College Hill <10
Wayland <10
Valley 46
Olneyville 83
Federal Hill 52
Downtown 36
Fox Point 13
Hartford 42
Silver Lake 76
West End 176
Upper South Providence 143
Lower South Providence 111
Elmwood 107
Reservoir 14
Washington Park 45
South Elmwood <10

Number of Children of Sentenced Offenders

- 1 - 9
- 10 - 49
- 50 - 99
- 100 - 200

NNIP Cross-site: School Readiness (Denver)

Proximity to Quality Public Education - Free and Reduced Lunch Students, Grades 1 to 3 (2007)
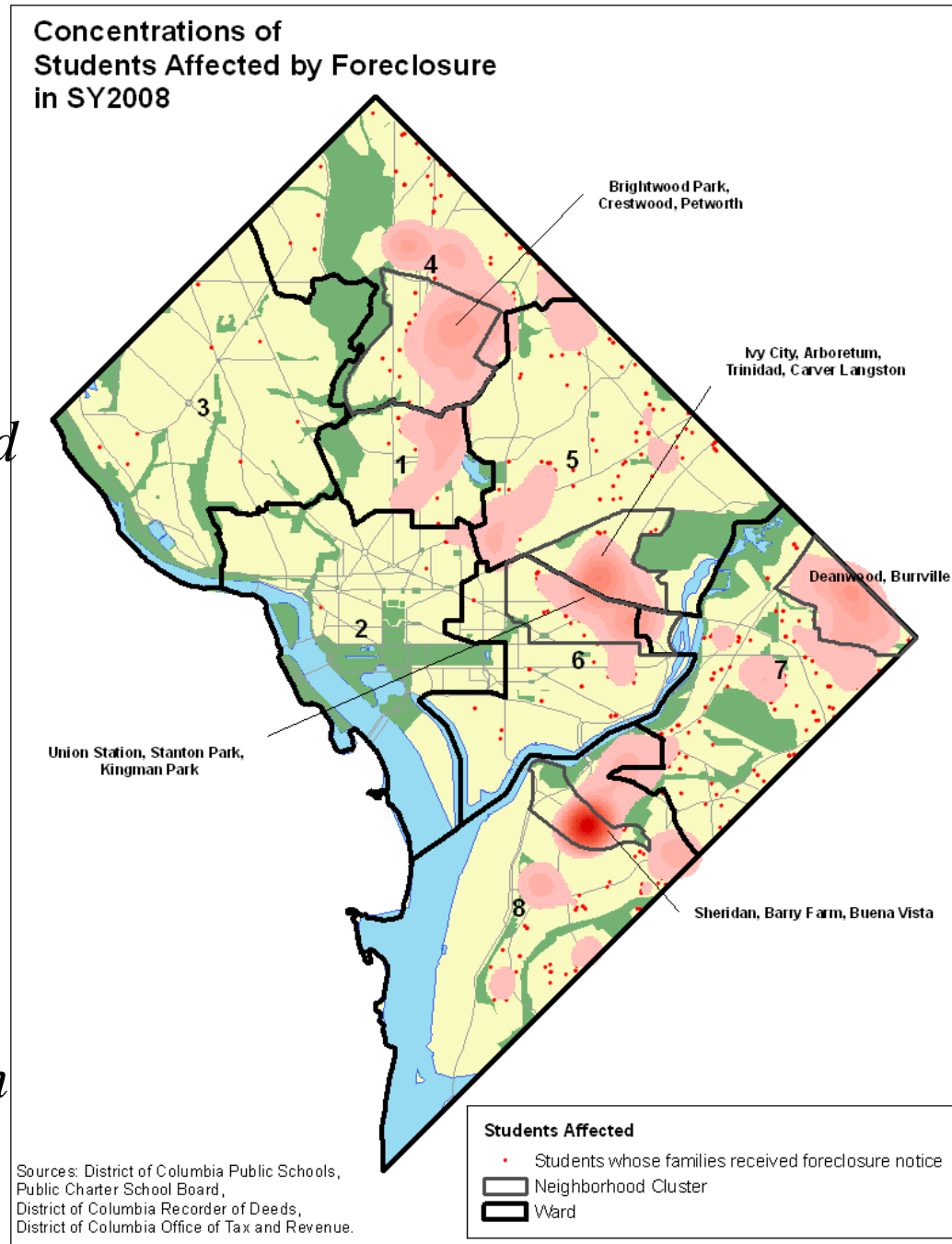
NNIP Cross-site:
Impact of Foreclosures
on Children
(District of Columbia)

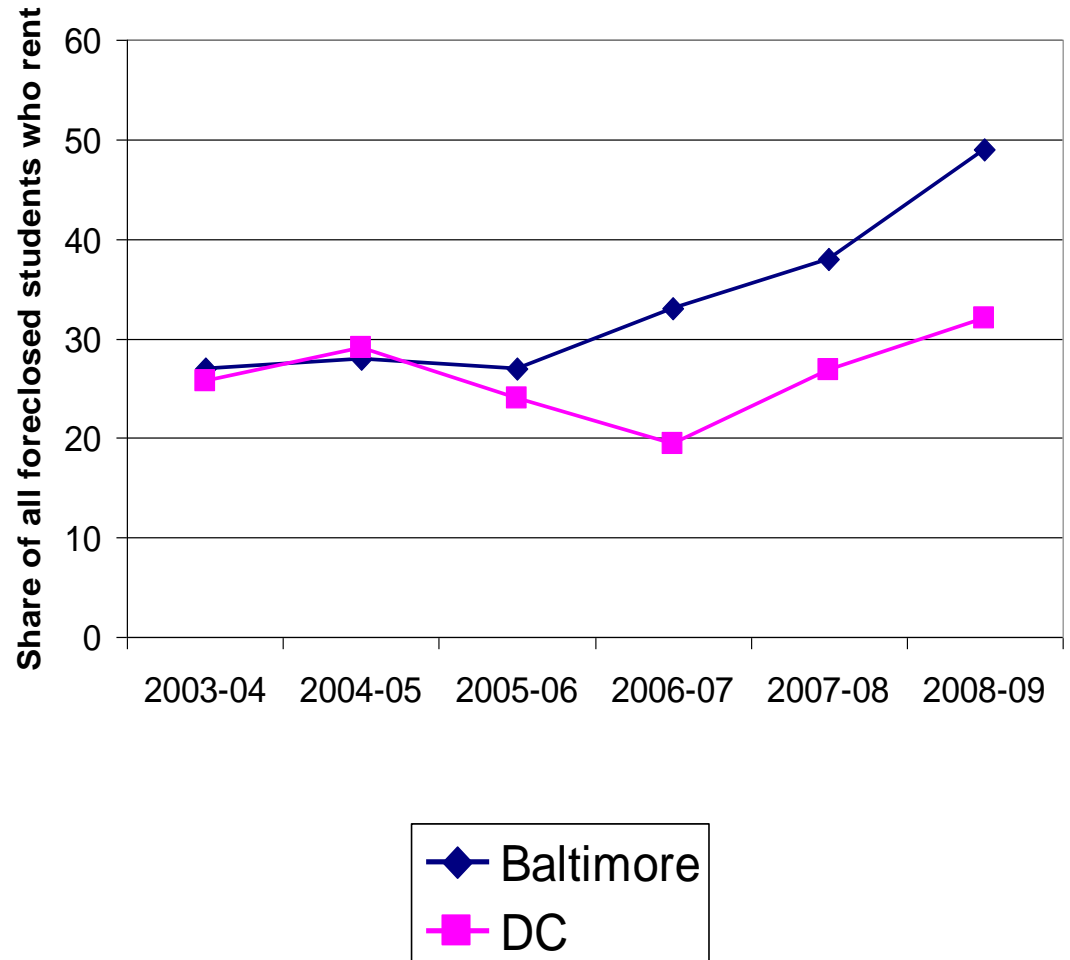*Forced mobility puts kids behind socially & academically*

Foreclosure prevention counselors should connect families to student services

Schools need to understand the patterns and trends of students affected by foreclosure to design appropriate responses

Concentrations of
Students Affected by Foreclosure
in SY2008

Brightwood Park,
Crestwood, Petworth

Ivy City, Arboretum,
Trinidad, Carver Langston

Deanwood, Burrville

Union Station, Stanton Park,
Kingman Park

Sheridan, Barry Farm, Buena Vista

Sources: District of Columbia Public Schools,
Public Charter School Board,
District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds,
District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue.

Students Affected
• Students whose families received foreclosure notice
Neighborhood Cluster
Ward

NNIP Cross-site:
Impact of Foreclosures
on Children
(Baltimore/DC)

The share of students in foreclosure households that are renters is rising in Baltimore and DC

For more information

NNIP Web site: www.urban.org/nnip

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